THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). As per the information furnished by the State Government, at present in Rajgangpur, 654 TB cases are under treatment and the present prevalence rate of TB is 2.5%. According to the expert opinion, workers who are exposed to cement dust are liable to develop mucous hyper–secretion and obstructive air–way disease as cement dust contains hazardous silicates which cause Silicosis.

For the control of Tuberculosis, 10 TB beds are available with one TB Clinic and facilities of X–ray are also available in the sub–divisional hospital, Rajgangpur. In addition to this, 16 beds for TB patients are available at ESI Hospital, Rajgangpur. The Pollution Control Board, Orissa has suggested for change of productive devices as well as to put pollution control devices. The cement factory has not complied with the directives for which a case has been lodged by the Pollution Control Board, Orissa before the Sub–divisional Judicial Magistrate, Sundergarh. The case is sub–judice.

Air Linking of States and Union Territories

*377. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States and the Union Territories not connected by air services at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to air link the same in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Haryana, Sikkim and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are presently not air linked.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For commercial and operational reasons it is not feasible to airlink these states and union territories for the present.

Procurement of Drugs

*378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Statesman, New Delhi dated November 23, 1991 regarding procurement of drugs;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of the existing machinery in D.G.H.S. to verify the capability of the suppliers to manufacture the product to the stipulated specifications before placing bulk orders with them;

(d) whether any trial tests of drugs purchased from pharmaceutical units are held;

(e) if so, where and under whose supervision; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Medical Stores Organisation of the Directorate General of Health Services follows the prescribed and well established system of registration of manufactures from